

## Additional Comments to the BLM RAC 8/28/14 Meeting

We need to start working TOGETHER to find *real working solutions*. There are ways to do this without destroying each other - or the animals or the lands. Like it or not, we need each other. We need to create a balance, a healthy balance where all sides are represented fairly. I believe WE CAN CO-EXIST, that we can reach accord and move forward *responsibly and respectfully*. It will require compromise from EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US. LIKE IT OR NOT, we're in this together.

We also can't forget that MULTIPLE USE means exactly that. Horses, extraction, and livestock must ALL find a way to play nice. Or we end up with a range war and a range war will only destroy the range – and we ALL lose. A 'justifiable' decision should give us best decision on the range for EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US. I may not like it, but I also support using PZP as a TEMPORARY means to control certain populations in a CATCH, TREAT AND RELEASE PROGRAM. It will buy all of us time. It will save all of us money and, just as important, keep wild horses and burros in the wild.

I believe we should avoid any permanent sterilizations at this time. Surgical, field sterilization remains one of the most unacceptable options of birth control to advocates. It is unsterile, highly unmanageable, with admitted high mortality rates. We must not, in any way, close doors genetically on any individual animal while we are trying to "figure out" what's going on, while we 'study' things year after year. There is no second chance, no back up genetic plan for these horses and burros.

Humane care – from their birth on what should be a well managed range, to SELECTIVE roundup to organized and thoughtful, long term holding (only when necessary) - is the ONE AND ONLY OPTION. It's not something to 'look at' or 'think about'. It's got to be done - and done now. The responsibility is yours. More and more Americans are aware of what's happening to these animals every single day but HUMANE CARE IS THE LAW.

I believe trap site adoptions that Jeannie Nations mentioned at the meeting is a very good option. People are very interested in MUCH MORE HUMANE gathers and MUCH MORE HUMANE processing and this could play right into that, let alone addressing the financial issue. Give adopters *actual and realistic notice*, give them time to plan. Let them help. But don't break the plan to them a week ahead of time, expect miracles, and then say it never works.

I also believe adoptions can be greatly increased by some incredibly simple ideas. Try having adoption centers open when people are actually available to visit. I was just at Palomino Valley at 10am Saturday morning; it was locked up tight. Even ONE person should be available during the day every weekend day. And let people know you're open. Just changing the hours on the website doesn't 'let people know'. Create outreach. Start using some good old common sense.

I do believe we really need to involve wild horse and burro advocates more at every level. Partner with them on adoptions and outreach. Please stop shutting the doors on them.

I would also request the board(s) to please stop recommending illegal, immoral, and unethical solutions to the wild horse "problem". Fanning the flames is not productive. Wild horses are NOT the problem – it's the blind management, the inhumane management of them that is a problem. We are trying to reach solutions. But whatever we do, we all have to start working TOGETHER!!!

Thank you to the members for the opportunity to speak and for your time and your consideration. It was very nice to meet some of you. I look forward to seeing lawful, thoughtful recommendations that matter to everyone, not just those with deep pockets.